

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Method for producing foamed slag (7) on high-chromium steel melts (6) in an electric arc furnace (1), wherein a mixture of a metal oxide and carbon is introduced into the furnace (1), the metal oxide is reduced by the carbon in the slag (7), and the resulting gases form bubbles in the slag, which thus cause the slag to foam, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the mixture of metal oxide and carbon is introduced into the furnace as compressed preforms (8) and/or preforms (8) provided with a binder.
2. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted in such a way that they float in the slag (7).
3. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or~~ ~~Claim 2, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted in such a way that they float in the slag near the phase boundary between the melt (6) and the slag (7).
4. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~Claim 2 or~~ ~~Claim 3, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 2, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted by the addition of an iron carrier.

5. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted in such a way that they disintegrate in the slag (7) uniformly and slowly, and the evolution of gas occurs uniformly and over a relatively long period of time.

6. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted in such a way that they disintegrate with a time delay.

7. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 6, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein a flux, preferably limestone, is additionally added to the mixture.

8. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein a slag thinner, preferably CaF_2 , is additionally added to the mixture.

9. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 8, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein a reducing agent, preferably silicon and/or aluminum, is additionally added to the mixture.

10. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims~~
~~1 to 9, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein~~ the preforms
(8) are introduced through the sidewalls (10) and/or the furnace roof
(4) of the electric arc furnace (1).

11. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims~~
~~1 to 10, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein~~ the preforms
(8) are introduced into the slag (7) in a directed way in the
vicinity of or directly at the hot spots of the electrodes (5a-c).